

Allen-Scott Report **Revolution in Honduras**

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Mr. Allen

The State Department is suppressing alarming evidence that deposed President Villeda Morales permitted Cuban Ambassador Silvino Sorhegui to openly export Castro's Communist revolution to Honduras.

The headline "proof" of this development is detailed in documents sent through diplomatic channels to the State Department by the military junta that seized power in Honduras to keep that nation from drifting into the "arms of Castro."

One of the junta's shocking reports, which casts a dark shadow over some of the press administration hand - wringing over what to do about the new regime, links the military's take-over to President Villeda's milquetoast efforts to bar Communist subversion and infiltration from Cuba.

Striking illustrations of the ousted government's failure to combat this Red threat as outlined in the military's report are:

"Documents found in the palace contain positive proof that President Villeda knew that a Cuban ambassador solicited to his government was frankly and openly exporting the Cuban revolution months before he was ousted.

"Ambassador Silvino Sorhegui, with criminal impunity, traveled all over the country distributing money and propaganda, and created Communist cells for Castro in some of the remote corners of Honduras.

"In Tegucigalpa, the Cuban ambassador used the Library Camille Cienfuegos as a rendezvous for Castro followers and agents. During these visits, he arranged for transportation for Honduran students and youths to go to Cuba for espionage training and indoctrination. Although these activities were known to the government, no action was taken by President Villeda to stop them or prevent the students from completing their trips.

"Records of the security police show that government officials who tried to block these students from leaving the country were discharged or demoted by aides of President Villeda."

Another of the military junta's reports, turned over to U. S. diplomats before they were recalled, points out President Villeda's constant efforts to play down the existence of pro-Castro guerrillas in the small Caribbean nation, stating:

"While President Villeda insisted that there were no Communist guerrillas between the Patucea and Segovia rivers near the Nicaraguan border, the Honduran armed forces and the Nicaraguan army confirmed their presence.

"The Palace (Civil) Guard, under the service of President Villeda, saw students in Tegucigalpa display Czech and other foreign arms and hand grenades, but took no action to confiscate the arms."

The Senate Armed Services Preparedness subcommittee, which is probing Communist infiltration of Latin America from Cuba, plans to call State and Defense Department officials early next month to determine why this shocking information is being withheld from Congress and the public.

Army Colonel R. W. Page, Jr., who heads the 20-man U. S. military mission pulled out of Honduras after the junta took over, will be questioned about reports that U. S. aid was being used to build up the President's Palace Guard, which was loaded with pro-Castro officers.

Senate probes have learned that Colonel Page, while frowning on the military coup, reported to his superiors in the Pentagon that the military junta are our guys, even more so than the so-called democratic leaders who were run out of the country.

On seizing power, the junta disarmed the Palace Guard, placing a number of their pro-Castro officers in jail. This blow for freedom was "rewarded" with a U. S. crackdown on the new government. The White House ordered all military and economic aid out off from the military junta despite some strong private protests by members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Undersecretary of State Averell Harriman will be the U. S. representative at next month's Alliance for Progress meeting in Sao Paulo. He was picked for the assignment by McGeorge Bundy, White House adviser on foreign policy, to pump new life into President Kennedy's lagging aid program for Latin America . . . Ludwig Erhard's first test as chancellor will be the opening of negotiations with the Soviet Union next month for a new trade agreement. Russia is pressing for expansion of the three-year 1961 pact expiring next year. West Germany had agreed in principle to increase Russo-German trade prior to the wheat sale controversy. Significantly, ex-Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is opposed to expanding trade. Meanwhile, President Kennedy is quietly encouraging Erhard to increase West German contacts and trade with the Russians. West Germany signed the first trade pact with Russia in 1953, providing for two-way trade totaling around \$325 million. The 1961 pact boosted the volume to more than \$400 million both ways. In the past, the West Germans have refused large credits sought by Moscow. Now, however, with a green light from the U. S., Erhard is expected to give in to the Soviet demands.